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The Negro in the New World. By Sir HARRY H. JOHNSTON, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.Sc. (New York: Macmillan Company. 1910. Pp. xxix, 499.)

It is a reasonably safe generalization that almost any book, written by any man who has acquired eminence in any walk of life, which treats a subject with which the author's life-work is identified, must have at least some element of value. We may invoke this generalization in behalf of the volume before us.

The portions of the book which are purely descriptive are entertaining enough, and presumably sufficiently accurate. But the chapters which attempt to deal with the historical aspects of the subject are in the main so palpably one-sided, and are written with such an utter absence of any effort at judicial statement, that they have little or no value for the student and are misleading for the general reader.

Fifteen of the twenty-four chapters are devoted to a consideration of slavery and the negro in the West Indies, South America, and the United States. Nine chapters are given to the negro in the United States since emancipation.

The author has shown exceptional consideration for both reader and reviewer. In fourteen pages he has summarized his conclusions and opinions, for the benefit, he says, of those who are too busy to do more than glance at his pictures and read his preface. A careful reading of the volume shows that he has faithfully discharged his prefatory undertaking.

He considers the generality of negroes inferior "in mental development and capacity" to Europeans and Americans, and to the Eskimo, the Indian, the Japanese, the Chinese, and the natives of India and Tartary. With the exception of the face, the best types of negroes "in bodily structure are almost as beautiful" as the best European type. "Morally, the Negro is nearly on an equality with the White race, and perhaps slightly superior to the Yellow" (p. vi). The Spanish treatment of the negro was far less cruel than was that of the Dutch or Anglo-Saxon. The negro slave had a less unhappy life in Portuguese Brazil than in either North America or the British and French West Indies. While the Dutch treatment of the negro before the nineteenth century was mainly atrocious, it is now as good as under the English or French (p. vi). The present treatment of the negro who is seeking an education is much better in France and Germany than in England or the Southern States. He feels obliged to show "with what terrible cruelties" slavery was connected in the British West Indies, but considers the treatment of the negro since 1868 to have been wholly satisfactory (p. viii).

The author has also "felt it advisable" to give "an explicit account of the exceptional cruelties attending Slavery in the United States" He admits that perhaps these cruelties were not greater than in Barbados, and certainly not more outrageous than under the Dutch (p. ix)

But as he apparently accepts a certain "female fury, for whom no imagined hell is hot enough" (pp. 113-114), as fairly typical of the average Dutch slaveholder, we need not be unduly puffed up over this concession to our ante-bellum humanity. He devotes a paragraph to explaining his reason for this "raking up of embers that have ceased to glow". It is the fear that the bulk of his countrymen and the mass of his readers in North America have not realized how bad was the treatment of the negro in the Southern States throughout the slavery period (p. ix). He has certainly done his part toward enlightening them. We may illustrate his efforts in this behalf, as well as his general mental attitude, by a digression from his analysis of his text and a glance at the text itself.

He compares the "increasingly brutal" treatment of the Barbadian slave to the "lust of cruelty" which arose in the Southern States—"an expensive gratification of wild beast instincts, since after all the slave was valuable property, and it was waste of good money to maim or kill him" (p. 216). He declares that slaves in South Carolina "were almost deliberately worked to death in the pestilential rice swamps" (p. 353). "It was in South Carolina in the first quarter of the eighteenth century that life was made unbearable and short for the unfortunate African, and that, being driven to mad despair, the negroes broke out in the Charleston revolt of 1740 and attempted (small blame to them!) to slay the pitiless devils who were their masters" (p. 368). And lest the reader imagine that some improvement was gradually wrought with passing years, he tells us that "we need not waste time over the eighteenth century in drawing up our indictment against the Southern States" (p. 369).

Sir Harry apparently has but recently discovered that the greatest and most bitter controversial period in American history, 1830-1865, was marked by a flood of anti-slavery literature, but he does not stop to consider the fact that these writings most naturally reflected the tone and temper of the times. Nothing is discounted and nothing weighed. He has ransacked this literature, making no allowance for its now confessedly partizan character and purpose, and parades his gruesome finds before a twentieth-century audience as counts in his indictment of Southern life, customs, character, and morals. He accepts the literalness of ancient colonial statutory verbiage, perfunctorily brought down in the letter long after the spirit was dead, as proof conclusive of "Southern barbarism". Still speaking of South Carolina, he tells us that "In this barbarous State (as it must have been until the conclusion of the American Civil War) for some offenses even white women were to be publicly whipped after being branded with a red hot iron, whereas men only received the branding" (p. 370).

He says: "The steady perusal of the many books and pamphlets published between 1830 and 1865, dealing with the maltreatment of slaves in the Southern States, as well as the speeches made in Congress by

Charles Sumner and others, leaves even the hardened reader and the cynical with a feeling of nausea, perhaps even with a desire for some posthumous revenge on the perpetrators of this Outrage on Humanity, worse than anything recorded in the nineteenth century of the Turk in Europe or the European in Congoland" (p. 371). Apparently the South's keenest pleasure was that of witnessing the torturing of slaves (p. 377). Of course this had its effect on the white population, and "manners, morals and speech were exceedingly coarse."

"White children and young women were accustomed to such sights, such indecencies of speech and action as must have left them with no ignorance of the existence of filthy and refined sensuality. So crudely indecent in fact were the conditions of slave life that the slightly veiled concupiscence yet comparative lack of prurience in the eighteenth-century British and French West Indies—still more the grave Spanish propriety in clothing and personal demeanour in public life—seem positively a glimpse of wholesomeness compared to the condition of South Carolina, Georgia, Northern Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, and Northern Louisiana in the first sixty years of the nineteenth century" (p. 379). He reproduces a statement that "The talents of the South all turn into two channels, politics and sensuality" (p. 380).

If patience and space permitted it, such quotations could be multiplied a hundred times, to say nothing of numberless petty expressions which can be accounted for by nothing less than an obsession of jaundice toward everything in the remotest degree associated with the ante-bellum South and its people.

The chief advice given the modern negro by the author is to "make plenty of money". He places a high estimate upon this useful adjunct of civilization. "Money solves all human difficulties. It will buy you love and respect, power and social standing" (p. xi). He seems quite well satisfied, on the whole, with the progress made along this line by the descendants of those who managed to survive the ordeal of Southern slavery. But he is not at all pleased with the light way in which the South was let off after the Civil War, nor with the results of Reconstruction. He thinks that so slight has been the retribution to the South, "in comparison with its Slavery record", that future historians will either "think there is a chapter missing somewhere; or be more than ever inclined to desert the old-fashioned view of God's judgments" (pp. 384, 385).

ALFRED HOLT STONE.

The Interest of America in International Conditions. By A. T. MAHAN, D.C.L., LL.D., Captain, United States Navy. (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company. 1910. Pp. 212.)

THIS work of Captain Mahan is one of deep interest and of great suggestiveness. He prepares us for his general discussion of the present